Musket

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Senior Josh McCarthy is entranced by beautiful senior serenader Jessica Van Nostrand.

Photo by Gill Grant

Winterfest Held

by Erin Carlson and Tarah Dunn

Winterfest, a collection of plays written and directed by Lexington High School students, took place on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of February. Although the performances did not draw overwhelmingly large crowds, the plays were extremely well-received by the audiences.

Winterfest was deemed successful by drama teacher Steven Bogart, who called it the "strongest Winterfest [he had] seen." He labeled the acting "striking" in the aspect that "all the shows were good." Bogart was impressed by the "risks that [the actors] took."

The performance was hosted by the talented juniors Brent Newcomb and Vinny Jindal. The highlight of their performance was an original song by Newcomb. It was definitely an audience pleaser. Sophomore actress Alyssa Rayman-Read commented that the "incorporation of a self written song was a new and innovative idea to include in the hosting of Winterfest."

Lack of communication between the backstage crew and the technical booth posed a few minor problems. "Transitions [between skits] were difficult," commented Rayman-Reed. But Bogart was not distraught. He felt that "[the technical difficulties] were not a blatant problem." He added that "the hosts covered lots of things" which prevented them from "getting in the way of the show."

Thursday night featured the winner of the Emerson College High School Drama Festival, "An Empty Shoebox," translated from Spanish and directed by junior Mark Stevens. "An Empty Shoebox" dealt with human fears and was notable for the level of intensity the actors were able to sustain.

Another unexpected highlight on Friday evening was Michael Tsung's directing the Spruet Harmonic Group in a spirited version of the "William Tell Overture."

"Impromptu," directed by Alison Green, impressed the audience as did the production of Kurt Vonnegut's "Next Door." Saturday night also included many strong pieces. "I'm Sticking With You," written and directed by junior Amanda Palmer, was a very symbolic and moving play about abuse. Sophomore Heather Goss felt that the acting in "I'm Sticking With You" was interesting because [the actors] had to get so angry and abusive."

"The Gingerbread Lady," directed by Tanya Frank, presented a bittersweet view of the struggles of one alcoholic and her affect on everyone around her. Senior Sylvia Sellers was very convincing as Evy. Jonas Woolverton, Alyssa Rayman-Read, Becca Haywood, and Mark Stevens formed a mature and intelligent supporting cast. Rayman-Read found the experience "exciting." She added, "People came in bawling."

"The Butter Battle" was a light play adapted and directed by senior Taryn Roeder. It was a welcome contrast to the more serious pieces of Saturday night. Goss commented, "A number of topics ranging from light to heavy were covered by the plays."

All in all, the annual production of Winterfest was another successful showcase of student acting and directing.

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Anti-Condom Question Defeated in Town Vote

by Will Eisner

Residents of Lexington voted not to change the current condom availability program at Lexington High School. On the non-binding referendum on the March 1 Lexington ballot, three-thousand and seven voters responded "Yes" to the question "Should the Lexington School Committee continue its policy of providing condoms to students at Lexington High School without parental permission?" Two-thousand five-hundred and twelve voters responded "No."

This vote will insure that the current condom availability policy at Lexington High School will not be changed in the immediate future. The referendum was submitted by an anti-condom availability group called Lexington Citizens for Responsible School Policy. This group is headed by Lexington resident Douglas Yeo.

The referendum question was submitted in response to the recent implementation of a Condom Availability Bill passed by the LHS Student/Faculty Senate during the 1991-1992 school year. The bill was vetoed by Principal David A. Wilson and then sent to the School Committee, where it was debated publicly. After much discussion, the committee decided to implement condom availability by a vote of 4-1.

Many students and residents were satisfied with the results of the referendum question. Junior Kate Olivier commented, "I'm glad the referendum turned out the way it did. Parental consent would have nullified the [condom availability] program." Olivier is the student-coordinator of the condom availability program at LHS. In addition, she was a member of the Health Action Committee, a group of Lexington residents that supported maintaining the current condom policy during the referendum battle.

Olivier commented, "One of the best things about our program is that students aren't required to identify themselves. Parental consent would be a strong deterrent to students."

> "I am pleased that [the vote] turned out this way. It shows that there is support for an active AIDS prevention program."
>
> *—School Committee member Lois Coit*

School Committee member Lois Coit also seemed happy with the results of the referendum. Coit commented, "I am pleased that [the vote] turned out this way. It shows that there is support for an active AIDS prevention program."

Other residents were not as satisfied with the results of the referendum. However, Douglas Yeo commented, "Considering the odds we are happy with the 46% positive response." He added, "There were 2200 voters who did not vote on the referendum. We think that a lot of people haven't made a decision so we will continue education work on this issue."

At this point, the future of the condom availability program at Lexington High School is more secure than before, but in no sense is the issue resolved. Joseph Dini is the newly-elected School Committee representative. When asked about the future of the condom program, he commented, "I don't foresee any changes. It was a non-binding referendum to begin with."

Concerning the future of condoms at the high school, Douglas Yeo commented, "We need to all work together to find solutions that will be best for the students, parents, and other citizens of our town."

Asked about the future of the program, Kate Olivier commented, "At this point, I'm not really focusing on the future. It's been a challenge to put the program in place and to keep it in place." She added, "Kids need to get information. Our condom packets should be only one of many sources." She concluded, "Right now, we have Life Skills and condom availability, but hopefully in the future we can expand on that."

Debaters Continue To Win

by Roopom Banerjee

The Lexington Debate team continued its season placing highly in several important tournaments around the country.

At the Westchester Classic tournament in Lakeland, New York, the team of senior Luca Struble and junior Kristen Mann reached the Final round, winning Second Place. Meanwhile, in the previous Semifinal round, they "closed out" against their senior teammates Susan St. Pierre and Amy "Any" Lang.

> "This year has been extremely successful . The varsity debaters have been producing and the novices have shown a lot of promise as well."
>
> *—Senior Josh McCarthy*

In the Lincoln-Douglas division, junior Victor Karkar reached the Quarterfinal Round after closing out against his senior teammate Roopom Banerjee in Octafinals. Finally, the novice policy debaters turned out to be perhaps the most successful, as Cynthia Lin and Ellen Van Wert emerged as the Champions of the tournament in the novice division.

Senior Matt Stephenson and junior Li-Cheng Wang traveled to the Montgomery Bell Academy in Tennessee, a nationally-acclaimed tournament, where they reached the Quarterfinal Round. Soon after, a troupe of debaters went to the Georgetown Day School Tournament in Washington D.C. Among those that went, juniors Marc Jacobson and Yvonne Ou cleared to the Octafinal Round. Their performances hint at the potential of Lexington policy debaters in the future.

Powerhouse seniors Dan Marx and Josh McCarthy continued to do well also. At the Pace Academy Round Robin, Marx and McCarthy prevailed against valiant competition, and emerged as the Champions of the tournament, while McCarthy was named first speaker. Their winning streak continued at the Emory University tournament where the two reached the Final round and won Second Place, losing to a team from highly-ranked Alabama. McCarthy was named second speaker.

McCarthy commented, "This year has been the most successful year for the team that I can remember. The varsity debaters have been producing and the novices have shown a lot of promise as well."

The Lincoln-Douglas debate squad has also done respectably both at local and national tournaments, considering the lack of experience on the young team. Among the Varsity Lincoln-Douglas debaters, senior Courtney Harter and junior David Mackey showed their skills at the Hendrick Hudson Tournament in New York, Harter won First Place, defeating a girl from the Bronx High School of Science, while Mackey reached the Quarterfinal Round, dropping to the same Bronx debater. Because of their feats, both Mackey and Harter received half-qualifications for the Debate Tournament of Champions in the spring in Kentucky.

As the debate season draws to a close, Lexington debaters look ahead with optimism to the final tournaments of the season.

Senior Matt Lippert is a representative to the Site-Based Council. See story on page 2.

Photo by Gill Grant

Massachusetts Science Bowl Champions Tim Shiau, Linda Warren, Sergiu Trole, and Mike Sung took first place among contestants from all over the state. The team will be headed to Washington later this year to compete in a national competition.

Photo by Paul Martenis

Library Goes Electronic

by Offer Egozy

During February vacation, the Lexington High School Student Library underwent major changes. These changes consist of the installation of a new computer system. The system will catalogue all the books in the library that were previously recorded in the card catalogue. Dynix, a company from Provo, Utah, installed seven computers in all. The public will be able to access five of them. Of the other two, the circulation desk will have one while the other will sit in the office of Barbera Stanton, the Coordinator of Library Resources. Initially, students will be able to perform key word searches of an online card catalogue with the computers. Additionally, each student will have their own record. All students will be able to access their record and determine which books in their possession are overdue.

The installation of the system occurred on Tuesday, February 16. Training of the librarians occurred in the first week in March. The system should be up and running by the end of March.

It is unclear exactly how the student record system will work. According to library media specialist Annette Tate, one possible option is to give each student a library card. In order to check a book out the card would be scanned and the information would be placed in the student's account. Another option is to place a bar code on student identification cards. To solve the dilemma, student input is needed.

One of the major benefits of the new system is easier access to book information. All information on any given topic will be reachable with a few simple keystrokes. Students will no longer have to rely on cards. Over the next year or two the card catalogue will be phased out.

Over the upcoming years, some new features will be added to the computer system . One such feature is modem access. Students will be able to access the library computer from their own homes. Additionally, each school building will be linked to the system. Students will be able to check if a book is out all the way from J house. The system will "open the doors of the library to the school," stated Tate.

The purpose of the system, besides easier access, is to "help prepare students for college," added Ms. Tate. Research showed that all but two colleges which Lexington students attend have computerized libraries. In order to ease the transition to this new world the computers were installed.

The Dynix computer was selected after the library staff surveyed hundreds of different models. After some research three systems were made finalists. Sales representatives came to the school to show off the features of each system. Additionally, schools around the country with such systems were interviewed. A school in Charlotte, North Carolina has the same system as will be installed in the LHS library. "They were raving about it," commented Tate. "We are very pleased with our selection," she added.

Funds for the new system came from last years school budget. There was major concern in the library over whether funds for the system would be frozen after the budget was lowered. However, earlier this year the library learned that the money originally allocated for the computer would not be withheld. Thus, the computers were ordered from Provo.

All in all, the new system should definitely ease some of the problems that exist in the library. It will make record keeping much easier. As Tate put it, the computers will help the library "look into the future."

School Committee Discusses Private Funding, Evaluation

by Rupa Mukherjee

The School Committee has been discussing several proposed policies for Lexington High School which could greatly affect the atmosphere of the school system.

The policy concerning the acceptance of funds from private donors has been a predominant issue in many meetings and has been discussed at great lengths. During the summer of 1992, Clark Candy Company offered financial support to Lexington schools in order to preserve middle school sports.

As a result of the budget crisis, the School Committee, faced with the necessity of cutting interscholastic sports in the middle school, was prompted to accept Clark Candy Company's offer. Relations between the School Committee and the private donor have been positive since both agreed against publicizing the situation. Clark is providing the town of Lexington with funds to continue interscholastic sports in the middle schools for one year. Though the School Committee has been willing to accept this financial assistance, a number of questions were raised which previously had not been considered. One of the most pressing questions asked by School Committee member Lois Coit was, "Who will ultimately maintain control of the program?"

At the beginning of this school year, the School Committee further discussed the philosophy of the athletic programs. School Committee members are searching for a new philosophy for school sports that would affect both the middle school and high school. Some people feel that with the money provided by the Clark Candy Company changes should be made in the whole athletic department. The question facing the School Committee is whether or not students should play sports for the sake of winning or for personal fulfillment.

> "Administrators, superintendents, and principals have to get rid of the politics and acquire the nerve to tell teachers, 'Hey, you're not doing the job.'"
>
> *—Senior Michelle Conceison*

Some of the residents who spoke at the meetings that there is no difference between the two objectives while others feel that school sports have truly become a "philosophical issue" which is important for the building of character and self-confidence.

The question as to whether the school system is properly meeting the needs of all its students came under much debate. The School Committee has become increasingly concerned that teachers are attending to only the best or less superior students in the classroom and that these students are receiving the better teachers. Much concern has been aimed at those students who are in the "middle." Some parents feel that these students, who are caught in between either end of the spectrum, are being deprived of high-quality education.

As a result, parents and School Committee members alike are advocating "basic equity for everyone in achieving quality education." The School Committee would like this goal to be placed in the open so there can be more awareness and contribution of ideas in solving the problem.

Discussion also took place concerning the highly-debated Education Reform Bill. In particular, the "just cause" clause has been widely argued. This clause states that if there is a reasonable and substantial cause, a principal has the right to tell a teacher or any faculty member that her or she is not working up to par or meeting the required expectations.

The problem the School Committee has found is that many principals are not frank with their colleagues and have reservations about criticizing them. Senior representative to the School Committee Michelle Conceison offered her views, "Administrators, superintendents, and principals have to get rid of the politics and must acquire the nerve to tell teachers, 'Hey, you're not doing the job.'"

Senate Debates Service Amount

by Paul Abbott

The Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate continued its 1992-93 session by sending a bill, which would expand community service requirements, back to committee.

The Expanded Community Service Bill would, if passed, require all students (starting with the Class of 1997) to complete eighty hours of community service, rather than the current twenty-five. Most of the debate on the bill centered around the issue of whether it was fair to impose the large increase on incoming students.

Although the bill was submitted by the School Climate Committee, senior senator Andrea Lee, a proponent of the bill, made sure the bill was sent to the Social Action Committee, which drew up the original Community Service Bill.

The purpose of the bill is to require students to find more "meaningful" community service. One primary reason the bill was sent back to committee was because the Senate felt quality, as well as quantity, of current community service should be evaluated.

Another bill, the Student Evaluation Bill, was also sent back to committee. This bill would require that students fill out the Site-Based Council teacher evaluation questionnaire at both the midpoint and end of the year.

Although the idea of the evaluation was well-received, some senators felt more coordination with the Site-Based Council was required before the bill could be voted on. The School Climate committee is currently working with the Site-Based Council on the evaluation.

Some questionnaires have already been distributed by teachers but on a volunteer basis only. This bill would make the questionnaires mandatory.

Finally, the Senate sent one other bill back to committee. This bill was the Final Exam Bill, which stated that any student with a year grade of 'A' would be exempt from the final exam in that class if they so desired.

The rationale of this bill was that students with an A average have proven their aptitude in the subject. Therefore a final exam should be optional. However, the bill was sent to the School Climate Committee so that teachers could be polled on their opinion of the bill. Also, the committee was asked to look into making the choice of whether to give final exam be the teacher's option, rather than the student's.

Finally, the Senate accepted a petition from the Black Student Union for an empty seat. As a result, the newest member of the senate is senior Cely Lubin.

Site-Based Council Discusses C-House

by Sriram Krishnamurthy

The Site-Based Council concluded another session of activity by discussing the C-House snack bar situation. There have been many complaints about the C-House snack bar by parents as well as teachers. Many parents have filed complaints because they feel that their children have only been buying french fries and other nonnutritious foods. Also C-House teachers filed a complaint about the snack bar because of the friolater.

The friolater is the machine that is used to fry the C-House french fries, onion rings, and mozzarella sticks. The complaint is that the friolater pushes up the bad air through the ventilation system into the classrooms above the cafeteria and that the machine emits a fatty smell. Also, much of the food produced by the friolater is lacking in nutritional value and high in fat.

The Site-Based Council made a decision to either get rid of the friolater or to reduce the snack hours, possibly closing it after breakfast hours.

Another topic brought up was a Student Emotional Needs Survey. This is a proposed survey that would survey students to see how big of a problem drugs and alcohol are at Lexington High School. Some council members suggest that the results of such a survey would be shocking. The Site-Based Council has decided to perform the survey. Details are expected to be worked out in future weeks.

In addition, Principal David A. Wilson proposed a Student Fairness Initiative. This initiative is aimed at students who are enrolled in Level 2 or Level 3 classes. The purpose of this initiative is to see if such students are being served fairly and if their needs are being fully met.

An additional issue taken up by the Site-Based Council was the teacher evaluation survey. A few weeks ago, students in various classes were asked to fill out an evaluation concerning their teachers. Senior representative Matthew Lippert asserts the importance of student input, "I feel it is important for teachers to get a different view of how they are teaching." Other issues brought up during the meetings were social integration at LHS and the learning level of seniors who don't plan on attending college after graduating from high school.

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C-Building Administrator Diane Lande is partly responsible for keeping track of the eighteen extra community service hours each National Honor Society member must complete.

Photo by Gill Grant

NHS Begins Service

by Elizabeth Crane

Everyone has heard of the National Honor Society, but few people know what it is exactly. You may ask, who belongs to this elite organization ominously acronymed "NHS"? Well, it's just a few of your classmates who have demonstrated strength in the areas of leadership, academic ability, and community service.

The administration and faculty of Lexington High School recently selected the members for this year's National Honor Society (NHS). Almost seventy seniors were chosen to participate in this organization, led by assistant principal Diane Lande.

To qualify for application to the National Honor Society, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.4. During his or her junior year, a qualified student is given the opportunity to complete an application in which they describe their extracurricular activities and leadership positions at the high school. Following this, a committee of teachers and administrators review each application. All teachers at the high school receive a list of the applicants and are encouraged to express their opinion concerning any student's acceptance to NHS. The administration then notifies each applicant of the final decision.

Each member of the National Honor Society must complete at least eighteen extra hours of community service per semester. To help students accomplish this requirement, NHS traditionally sponsors a blood drive. In the past, the drive has been held in the E-House guidance area during either late winter or early spring. Although employees from the American Red Cross actually draw the donors' blood, the students can help by checking volunteers in, handing out questionnaires, and providing refreshments for the donors. According to guidance counselor Robert Miner, approximately ninety people donated blood at the past year's blood drive.

Another option for earning community service is participation in a tutoring program. Any NHS members wishing to participate in this program indicate which subject(s) they would be willing to tutor. Students at the high school needing help in a subject can contact Mr. Miner who will pair up a student with an appropriate tutor. The arrangements and scheduling for sessions are worked out independently by the NHS members and the student being tutored.

As the name "National Honor Society" suggests, the organization extends nationwide. Each chapter is guided by a general handbook of regulations and suggestions. A central requirement is an induction ceremony of the members of each chapter. Seniors Monique Bynoe and Roopom Banerjee, along with the society's officers, will be candle lighters at the ceremony.

Seniors Bob Wong and Becky Dennison were elected president and secretary, respectively. Lande added that both the president and the secretary "will take leadership roles in the blood drive and the tutoring program." Dennison is responsible for recording members' community service hours. Regarding the decision to run for president, Wong commented, "The National Honor Society recognizes...the students who have contributed a lot to the community and school, and I'd like to represent these students."

> "[I] would like to encourage the class of 1993 to reach into the community. We're taking a lot from the school and community, and we need to give a lot back."
>
> —*Senior Bob Wong*

In terms of goals for this year's National Honor Society, Wong said that he would like to encourage "the class of 1993 to reach broader horizons into the community." He stated, "We're taking a lot from the school and community, and we need to give a lot back."

Wong expanded on his ideas and goals for the Lexington chapter of the organization at the induction ceremony on March 4. The guest speaker at the ceremony was superintendent Jeffrey Young. Lande commented that the evening was "an opportunity to hear [Superintendent Young] speak and get to know him a little bit better." She added that the ceremony was "a very enjoyable evening to meet parents and recognize the achievements of our students."

Plans for the blood drive and other community service events are currently being made in order to assist NHS members.

Students React To Clinton's Policies

by Viviane Chao

Now that we have a new president in the White House, things are pretty much back to normal. However, with a new commander-in-chief naturally comes a sense of apprehension and uncertainty in the public. We are all eager, hoping that Clinton will be the one who can guide this nation towards a brighter future. Nevertheless, in the back of the public's mind is always the nagging question: Is this new guy going to live up to the standards we've set? For ex-Bush supporters, the answer is most likely an emphatic "no." But for the rest of us, we're still waffling around, testing the waters of the new government. At Lexington High School, a number of people shared how they felt Bill Clinton would fare as America's new president.

"I think he will be far more devoted to our country than to foreign affairs...This is really great because right now, our country is in trouble!" exclaims senior Gill Grant. Senior Hong Kwon agrees with Grant, but added "I think Clinton will do a very poor job with foreign policy; he just has no experience."

On the other hand, not all students at the high school are politically aware, nor do they care to be. Sophomore Homer Hsu asserts, "Clinton will be all right I guess...I'm not really involved with this stuff, I don't know what the heck is going on."

Recent media harassment of the president about his campaign promises and his choice of appointees for government positions have not gone without controversy at the high school. Hong Kwon declares "Clinton has got four years to do something for this country. I haven't seen many candidates who have really met the letter of the law on their campaign pledges. Clinton is simply all bark and no bite!"

Although some students are giving Clinton a chance to work out the beginning setbacks, others attack him for his every gesture. Deeply engrossed in Rush Limbaugh's autobiography, Senior Craig della Penna only raised his head to comment, "I don't think he has the strength of conviction to stand up on controversial issues...He has already reneged on several of his campaign promises, such as gays in the military, middle-class tax cuts, and a full economic plan."

Junior Matt Horton reckons that it is the president's wife who will be the beneficial presence in the White House. "Hillary is going to have a positive effect; she's definitely competent for leading the health care issue. But," he continues, "I don't believe anything that [President Clinton] says. I'm waiting to see what he's going to do." At this early stage in the game, all we can do is wait.

The Doodle Itself

Original Artwork by Viviane Chao

Mysterious Artwork Subject of Discussion

by Victoria Chen, Viviane Chao, and Yung Tse
Quotations compiled by Amy Lang, Yung Tse, and Stefanie Berman

Recently, LHS students were confronted with a random doodle designed by The Musket's own Viviane Chao. Our roving reporters tracked down various students who were then asked to describe what they saw in the image.

A popular first response was, "Can I turn it any way I want?" and "Which way does it go?" However, after the initial confusion wore off, junior Ornella Rullo described the picture, saying, "It is sort of a landscape: see the sun on the ground and the tree knot? And look, there's a little doggie." Senior Laurel Hall commented, amusedly, "It looks like a clown with a clown nose, a clown eye, and a clown mouth."

Some students seemed to be deeply moved by the doodle. Junior Andrew W. Thompson stated, "It is the manifestation of our multi-planar lifestyle." He continued, adding, "It symbolizes the violence inherent in the system; it represents the devastation of the post-nuclear Dali-like world in which wiener dogs rule."

Fellow junior Brad DeCeceo was similarly affected; after a moment of what seemed to be the osmotic absorption of ink through his appendages, he exclaimed, "Oh, this is so deep...I want to write, I want to sculpt, I want to paint!" Junior Shahak Nagiel concluded that the picture "makes me want to laugh and smile."

Junior Yussef Bennani did not appreciate the doodle's aesthetic value, commenting "This is ridiculous...This is oblivion." Senior Lydia Kuhn agreed, admitting that she failed to see much more than "a bunch of silly shapes." First-year student Stacey Ladd sheepishly preceded her own comment with a disclaimer: "I'm not a very deep person; I see a bunch of lines with shapes."

Several of the first-year students who were interviewed seemed to perceive aviary images in the doodle. Kim Bacon confidently said, "It's a pregnant bird." Mike DiMascio saw "an eagle." Mark Sun was hesitant: "What is this supposed to be? I guess it's a bird."

Responses received from seniors ranged from "I don't know," which Jason Handwerker supplemented with a shrug, to highly imaginative descriptions, such as Rachel Kleinman's comment: "This is a man with a sharp nose and a goatee. He has a weird birthmark on his face, too."

Senior Jimmy Sheehy offered, "This looks like a seal with a ball...I don't know what is between them." When fellow senior Amy Lang suggested that the figure in question might be an ocean wave, Sheehy responded, "No, it's too demented to be a wave. Maybe it's a mushroom."

Seniors Haritha Bandla and Carrie Granger were more in agreement, telling our roving reporter, "It's a seal chasing a ball." After contemplating the doodle for a few minutes, senior Luca Struble Freudianly responded, "I see the image of a woman."

The Musket's features editors seniors Victoria Chen and Viviane Chao did not miss the chance to offer their comments. Vic says, "It looks vaguely like Aladdin's lamp with smoke coming out of it." Viv counters, "I see cute little ocean animals, floating around in the sea."

All in all we were not dissapointed by the creativity and imagination of the LHS student body. When presented with this problem, the students proved to be resourceful and intelligent. We have just one question: Which way *is* up?

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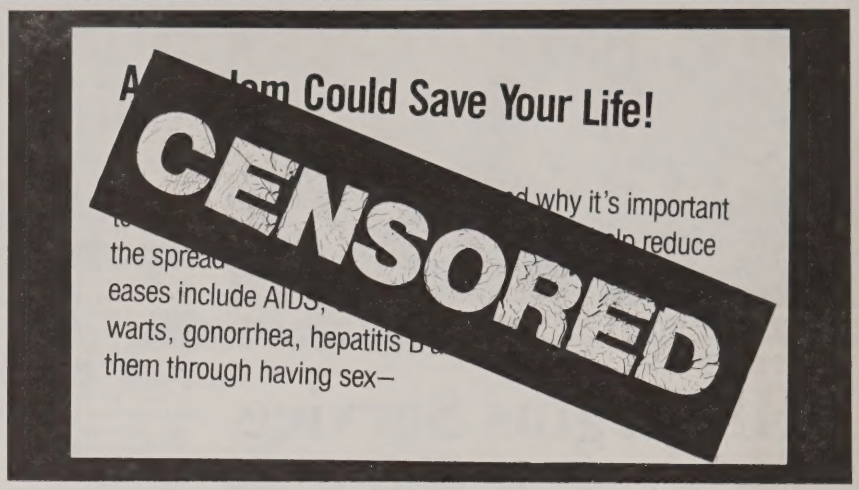
Censorship Must Stop

The rights of students to freedom of expression in the public schoolsof the commonwealth shall not be abridged, provided that such right shall not cause any disruption or disorder within the school. Freedom of expression shall include without limitation, the rights and responsibilities of students, collectively and individually, (a) to express their views through speech and symbols, (b) *to write, publish and disseminate their views*, (c) to assemble peaceably on school property for purposes of expressing their opinions.

No expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and *no school officials shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by students. The word school official shall mean any member or employee of the local school committee.*

—Excerpted from Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 82, adopted in 1988
(Italics are the *Musket*'s)



Along with the right to free speech comes the responsibility to protect that right. The *Musket* editorial staff feels obligated to report recent events that have caused us great concern; We believe that our rights to freedom of speech and freedom of press have been restricted.

An editorial was printed in the *Musket* of December 10, 1992 that strongly supported the continued availability of free condoms at LHS. The editorial further described a potential referendum issue on condom availability which would have required parental permission, as "ridiculous." Shortly after the publication of that editorial the Editor-in-Chief of the *Musket* was informed by the Lexington High School administration that certain community members, who strongly opposed the high school's condom availability policy, were alleging that what the *Musket* had done by printing the above mentioned editorial was illegal.

These people made their claim on the basis of a 1978 court decision in the case of *Anderson v. City of Boston*, 376 Mass. 178. That decision contained the Supreme Judicial Court's interpretation of a comprehensive statute regulating all campaign finance matters including the use of governmental resources to support or oppose a ballot question. What was at issue in the *Anderson* case was the extent to which a public official could use his or her office, office time, office machinery or employees to take a position for or against a ballot question.

It was explained to the *Musket* that the same restrictions instituted against a public official could also be instituted against a student newspaper if that paper was funded in any way by public funds, which indeed the *Musket* is. We were also furnished a set of guidelines prepared by the Lexington town attorney which set very stringent restrictions on what the *Musket* could and could not say about public referendum questions.

The *Musket* disagrees with these restrictions. We disagree that they were necessary, appropriate, or legally applicable. We contend that in light of the language of the Massachusetts free speech statute governing school newspapers quoted above, and in light of the fact that general law 71:82 was passed ten years *after* the *Anderson* decision, the administration and the town's attorney grossly misinterpreted the extent to which the *Anderson* ruling governed school publications. We believe that public law 71:82 was purposely adopted to prevent the kind of infringement on free speech described above. We have recently had our position verified by the General Counsel for the Legal Division of the Massachusetts Department of Education. We cannot help but conclude that the administration has unnecessarily and perhaps illegally tried to censor what could be published in the *Musket*.

In addition, during our discussions with the administration we were told in no uncertain terms that any further coverage of the condom issue or the referendum prior to the March 1st vote had to be submitted to the administration for approval. We believe that such actions would amount to nothing less than a prior restraint upon rights of free speech and free press as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

We feel that the school administration has acted inappropriately and with disregard for the student body of Lexington High School, and in doing so, has put our free speech rights at risk. If a school is to be an open forum where ideas can be freely discussed, then that school's administration must be vigilant in protecting those rights of expression.

In 1969 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark *Tinker* case that neither public school "students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." In 1988 the court retreated somewhat from the *Tinker* doctrine in its decision in the *Hazelwood* case. Their ruling in that case not only made a distinction between tolerated free speech versus school promoted free speech, but also allowed school officials broad powers to decide what was appropriate for publication in a school newspaper. It was in response to the *Hazelwood* decision that the Massachusetts legislature passed general law 71:82, to shield student publications in this state from the broad restrictive powers allowed school administrators under *Hazelwood*.

It is important to note as well that the Massachusetts law specifically protects public officials from legal responsibility for what is published in a school paper. So neither the *Musket* faculty advisor nor any member of the school administration or the school committee can be held legally responsible for what is published in the *Musket*. The language of the law merely restricts us from publishing articles that would intentionally and directly disrupt the educational process.

Professional ethics dictate, and legal decisions mandate, that we also be responsible not to publish anything that is either obscene or libelous. We gladly accept these limitations. What we cannot accept is censorship based merely upon a threat of legal action from a member of the community, who may not even be aware of General Law 71:82. We understand that some might interpret the *Anderson* decision to mean that a school sponsored newspaper can be restricted on the same basis that public officials are. The *Musket*, however, rejects that interpretation. We believe that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Mass. General Law 71:82 not only supersede the Anderson ruling, but were in fact, purposely intended to do just that.

There is no more sacred tradition in the history of American law than that of protecting against infringement upon free expression. As journalists, we on the *Musket* staff feel obliged to report this situation. We feel that the school administration has acted inappropriately and with disregard for the student body of Lexington High School, and in doing so, has put our free speech rights at risk. If a school is to be an open forum where ideas can be freely discussed, then that school's administration must be vigilant in protecting those rights of expression. The *Musket* should be able to rely on the administration for protection from those individuals who would try to restrict our rights. However, in this case, we have had to protect ourselves *from the administration*.

The *Musket* wants to make it clear to the administration that this sort of censorship is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We will not allow our rights to be restricted. We are offended and outraged at the actions of the administration, and we recommend strongly that the officials of Lexington High School reconsider their policy of interfering with contents of the student-run *Musket*.

Such unsigned editorials reflect the general opinions of the entire Musket editorial staff.

Referendum Tactics Misleading

The *Musket* agrees with Lexington citizens who decided on March 1 that the School Committee should "continue its policy of providing condoms to students at Lexington High School without parental permission." We support the "yes" vote in favor of the current condom availability policy on the non-binding referendum. However, we also recognize the validity and importance of questioning the desirability of having condoms available at the high school.

However, the importance of debating the issue of condoms assumes that each side is attempting to educate the public. Unfortunately, some of the tactics used by opponents during the referendum debate had the effect of misleading the public.

From the outset of the discussion, statistics were continually misused by those who opposed condom availability . For example, School Committee member Al Zabin pointed out that during the initial hearings on the condom proposal, several of the articles and reports cited by those opposing condom availability were taken out of context. Statistics in reports that ultimately supported condom availability were cited out of context to try to demonstrate that condom availability was bad and that condoms were ineffective in preventing the spread of disease If these reports were intentionally misrepresented by the opponents of condom availability, they did little to reinforce the credibility of their point of view. If they had a valid argument, they would not have needed to distort information to support it. On the other hand, if they accidentally misrepresented the facts, much greater care should have been taken to ensure that the information they gave to the public about this sensitive and complex issue was correct.

Misrepresentation of the issue was not limited to public debates before the School Committee. In an advertisement and a letter in the Minuteman, as well as in Citizens for Responsible School Policy's pamphlets, it was claimed that condoms are pregnable by the HIV virus. It is true that "natural" condoms, made of animal skin, are porous and thus do not protect against AIDS or some other sexually transmitted diseases. Latex condoms, on the other hand, are made of chemically-fabricated rubber. Neither HIV nor other viruses can pass through the material of a latex condom, unless the condom was faulty in its manufacture. The only condoms available at Lexington High School are latex and are tested extensively for faults. Moreover, the LHS Life Skills curriculum and the information included with each condom packet help ensure that condoms, when used, will be used correctly to prevent failure. Although sex is never safe, scientists do not dispute the fact that having sex using a latex condom is much, much safer than having unprotected sex. Statistics quoted by the Citizens for Responsible School Policy's information, on the other hand, implied that the condoms available at LHS simply do not protect against AIDS or other STDs. That information is both false and misleading.

Finally, the wording of the referendum itself, drafted by Citizens for Responsible School Policy, was confusing. The phrase "without parental consent," tacked on at the end, reinforced the notion that high school students are not responsible enough to make decisions for themselves. Every voter who read the referendum question at the polls was told that the critical issue is the approval of parents. Proponents of condom availability would argue that the critical issue is the health of children. To avoid bias, the question should have read "Shall the Lexington School Committee continue its policy of providing condoms to students at Lexington High School?" The wording of the question was so awkward that it was not even clear whether it would be the students of LHS or the school committee that would need parental consent.

We agree with citizens' rights to question any policy, particularly one so controversial as the condom availability program. We also appreciate the concern of the parents and other citizens of Lexington who spoke out one way or the other about condom availability. We believe that a constructive debate can, in general, only enhance citizens' awareness of the issues and their consequences. However, when the facts presented are distorted or misleading, the interests of the public are poorly served.

Such unsigned editorials reflect the general opinions of the entire Musket editorial staff.

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The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Leave short, tasteful letters to the editor in the *Musket* mailbox in the LHS Student Activities Center. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. *Musket* reserves the right to edit for length.

And you know what else?

Free speech is most precarious when we take it for granted. We do not live in a fascist state or an oppressive community. No one tells us what we must think. In European countries experiencing freedom for the first time, writers are struggling to adapt to their new situation; now that they need no longer express their opinions through veiled allegory and allusion, how can they articulate their ideas?

This is not a problem we have in Lexington. In this country, freedom of speech is sacred, built and maintained by the thousands who fought for liberty on battlefields and podiums. Given the importance we attribute our freedoms, it is important that we understand the continuing danger of censorship in other countries, in America, and in Lexington.

Examples abound in old history books and recent editorial pages. In 1564, the Vatican's first Index Librorum Prohibitorum outlawed a long list of books and articles that were determined to be heretical. The list would later include the works of the astronomer Galileo. More recently, in 1975, a group of concerned parents called "Parents of New York United" forced their high school librarian to remove from the shelves book that the parents called "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semetic (sic), and just plain filthy." The list included books that we read at LHS, such as Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five.

Well-intentioned community members in Lexington have argued, in the interest of morality, that sexuality should not be a part of the high school curriculum; that inappropriate parts of the school newspaper should be removed by an administrator; that the issue of condoms at the high school should not be addressed in the *Musket*. However, the "good" intentions of censorship belie its danger.

In 1644, John Milton's Areopagitica dissected British licensing laws which required that every article and book be approved by Parliament before being printed. Many of Milton's ideas were repeated in J.S. Mill's 1859 Essay on Liberty, in which he found free speech to be essential in a moral society.

From 1750 to 1793, it was illegal in Boston to perform a play in public. From 1934 to as recently as 1968, U.S. government regulations required that all movies have "moral" endings and kisses that lasted no more than three seconds.

Back in 1789, the First Amendment was ratified, granting that government would not make laws "abridging the freedom of speech." In the 1960s, President Johnson appointed a "United States Commission on Obscenity and Pornography" to determine the limits of that free speech. The Commission saw few limits and ordered repealed all laws restricting consenting Americans' access to the expression of their choice. But President Nixon rejected the findings of this Commission. In 1985, President Reagan appointed a new Commission. The new Commission concluded that much so-called "art" was mere filth and thus beyond the realm of protected speech.

In the spring of 1992, a middle school teacher in Irvine, California went through all her copies of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and blacked out words like "hell" and "damn" before assigning the book to her eight-grade class. She is reported to have decided that the words weren't critical to the meaning of the book, which is about a totalitarian society that censures its dissenters by burning down their houses.

We do not live in such a society. As a result, censorship tends to occur in more subtle ways. Almost always, it occurs in the name of good, which is often confused with the name of morality. "It is our duty, our moral obligation," said the Long Island parents who pulled Langston Hughes' The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers from their school library shelves, "to protect the children in our schools from this moral danger as surely as from physical and medical dangers."

It seems legitimate to want to protect people, particularly children, from evil. Will we lose respect for authority if a role model advocates violence against the police? Will we lose our religion if we are bombarded with advice contradictory to its tenets? These seem to be fair questions. These are the roots of common censorship.

Will we accept homosexuality if we see literature validating such an orientation?

Will we become sexist if our textbooks do not acknowledge the historical role of women?

This country is full of power relationships. Congress controls the NEA, the people control Congress, police control people, consumers control business, schools control students, parents control schools. Most of these institutions strive to do good, and that may mean using their power to suppress speech. Unfortunately, "good" changes from minute to minute and person to person; a three-second kiss in a movie today is just a peck.

The First Amendment was designed to prevent the government from abusing its position of power in the name of the historically fickle "good." Within the limits of obscenity and libel, we can express ourselves however we choose, even immorally.

Yet censorship occurs, not despite but because of our reliance on the eighteenth-century First Amendment to protect us. We are complacent in our protection from flagrant violations of our liberties, but everyday censorship does not occur between the totalitarian state and its citizens, as in Fahrenheit 451. The censorship we tend to excuse bears the ingenuous character of the teacher who crossed out Bradbury's obscenities for her students.

This year, well-intentioned community members in Lexington have argued, in the interest of morality, that sexuality should not be a part of the high school curriculum; that inappropriate parts of the school newspaper should be removed by an administrator; that the issue of condoms at the high school should not be addressed in the *Musket*.

The "good" intentions of censorship belie its danger. We strive for the elusive idea of truth, but the nature of this elusiveness is that we don't know what is the truth and what is just an idea that sounds good. To censor one in the interest of the other's propagation is never beneficial.

At worst, we censor an idea that would have become accepted later or by someone else, such as Galileo's idea of heliocentrism. The greatest societies are dynamic; they accommodate change. This was not a quality for which the now-defunct Holy Roman Empire of Galileo's time was renown.

On the other side of truth, we must recognize, as Mill did in the Essay on Liberty, that opposition to an idea can validate its worthiness. When Milton debated Parliament's 17th-century licensing laws, he gave more philosophical thought to the laws than had likely been given by their most staunch proponents. In addition, he framed arguments about the subject that would be thought about centuries later.

Some argue that, if exposed to them, students will become inculcated with untrue or immoral ideas. Charles Keating, Nixon's appointee to the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, said that it is only "common sense to know that one who wallows in filth is going to get dirty." To the contrary, students are among the most critically thinking people in America. It would be tragic to deny them the information necessary to exercise this capacity; by doing so, we discourage thought in general. Instead, we might view exposure to immorality as inoculation. We might replace the job description of the censor to an apostle, who suggests to the student a particular morality in light of the alternatives. Contrast this with the censor's tradition role of denying us the information to judge either side of the issue within the context of the other.

In this country, freedom of speech is sacred. Ninety percent of Americans in a poll believe in it. It is therefore somewhat disturbing that 28% of Americans in the same poll believe that freedom of expression should not apply to newspapers.

We are not threatened at Lexington High School with a ban on all plays in the auditorium. Our security is all the more reason for us to guard jealously our right to free speech, especially when encroachment is in the name of what might be "good" for the high school, the community, or us.

—Dan Michaelson

"Senior Slump" Isn't All Bad

For the class of 1993, college applications have all been submitted and there is little left to do but wait to find out what the next four years will hold.

As our applications pile up on admissions officers' desks across the country, we find our own lives in a sort of holding queue, a vague purgatory known as "senior slump." The phrase suggests images of bad posture, teenagers crawling through halls like molasses oozing from trees, teachers looking into the glazed, stupid eyes of their brightest students.

Senior slump means a release from guilt. Gone is that nagging inbred thought that to do less than one's best is a crime against humanity

"Let the party begin," said one senior.

To me, in the Jewish tradition, senior slump means a release from guilt. The fact is, many students' workloads will not change significantly, and many did not do all that much work during the first half of the year. But gone is that nagging inbred thought that to do less than one's best is a crime against humanity, that a "C" signifies some sort of evolutionary failure. Gone are the threats of not getting into the right college ("I just want you to keep all your options open"), as though the difference between one school and another makes the difference between eternal salvation and perpetual detention.

Is it really that important where we go? With few exceptions, most undergraduate institutions offer many of the same features as high school: good, bad, and exceptionally bad teachers; sports teams; other students; bad food. One of the things I will remember most about Lexington High School is the overcrowded, messy, food-throwin', insult-slammin' cafeterias. I think it's reasonable to hope that my chosen institution of higher learning will have dining halls similar in all important respects to F-caf.

After all, most of us aren't really that concerned with the academics of whatever schools we are considering. If we wanted to learn, we'd study calculus over the summer and "senior slump" would be a disorder resulting from too much time spent hunched over those books. When we think of college, we think of roommates, social life, dorm parties. If we're particularly responsible/guilt-ridden, we think of the college's reputation. Will it look good on a resumé?

That might sound familiar. "Son," my father said proudly when I reported an A- in physics last quarter, "that will look good on a transcript." What praise! We will spend most of the rest of our lives trying to please admissions officers of one kind or another, from colleges to jobs to the hereafter.

Take a semester and shove it. You deserve it.

—Dan Michaelson

-----Dan & Dan-----

Hey, kids! This month Dan & Dan do "Brickbats and Bouquets." For those of you who haven't picked up on the subtle wit of the Lexington Minuteman's letters page, we found out a "brickbat" is rock that you throw at someone. A "bouquet" is, as you thought, a bunch of flowers.

Astute observers will note that the *Minuteman*, in reprinting a large portion of Dan & Dan's "Life Skills" column, omitted the customary insult of *Musket* editor Will Eisner. For the record, we called him an-"insecure high school student."

Let's begin:

Dear Dan & Dan,

Your whole anti-disco campaign is childish and sad... Too often you make people laugh at the expense of someone else's feelings, sometimes even your "friends," and that is wrong. Everyone is cruel in some way, but you two have been given a position of power and responsibility. The power you have is that many people read your article, and take it all as literal fact... - Very, very angry

The day someone takes "Dan & Dan" as literal fact is the day "Geraldo" gets a job with the *New York Times*.

Dear Dan & Dan,

As I walk through the hallowed halls of Lexington High School recently, a feeling of emptiness invades my soul. To know that peers, classmates, and supposed "friends" have taken it upon themselves to attack the integrity and essence of disco makes me deeply sad. I feel sorry for anyone who would attack disco with such militant methods. These are angry, insecure young men and women completely devoid of moral character. Instead of looking to the power of disco to find an escape to their problems, they turn to drugs, alcohol, and classic rock. These are the lost, confused young people you avoid as you strut down the streets in fear that they might pick on you just because you wear yellow bell-bottoms and platform shoes. This is the troubled youth that listens to Foreigner, Whitesnake, Toto, or Rush with absolutely no sensitivity to other people's preferences... Disco is unifying music — just read the literature. As Kool & the Gang said, "It's time to come together, Let's Celebrate, What's your pleasure? Everyone around the world COME ON!" Black or white, Jew or gentile, Discohead or Deadhead, we can all put our differences aside on the dance floor. If you've every been at a true, get-down, shake yo' booty, strobe-lighted, lava-lamped disco party, you know the type of cosmic togetherness that can come about by a simple shake of your big old butt. So let them make fun of us, let them try to stop us; as Glora Gaynor would say,

"I will Survive... I'll Stay Alive." - R.A.M.

Dear Dan & Dan,

What do you do about gym class all-stars (people who put forth much more effort than is necessary)? I want to kick the [sherbert] out of them. - M.C. in J59

As a rule, Dan & Dan do not disclose our sources. In this case, however, as Mr. Damiani would say, his initials are "Michael Carey."

Dear Mike,

We find it ethically enigmatic (enig•ma, "something hard to understand"— another SAT word for you juniors!) that a *two-semester student leader* would lodge such a complaint. We know you sweat more than anyone when Mr. Hunt brings out the basketballs.

Speaking of ethics, Dan & Dan, in our investigative reconnaissance mode, uncovered the following note from amidst the debris in the G-house parking lot:

"Do you want to go to Walgreens?"
"yeah. [sic] it's [sic] easier to steel [sic] at Walgreens."
"i [sic] don't have any money."
"We don't have to buy anything execpt [sic][sic][sic] for like something 1 dollor! [sic]"
"Do you want to come to my house?"
"i [sic] probably can't cauz [sic] mr brown [sic] called my house! [sic] so i'm [sic] gonna [sic] get introuble [sic] ..."

You'd think if the high school isn't going to instill students with a moral code, it would at least teach them how to spell.

Overheard in F-caf:

"I'm going to eat this column... Just as I thought. Tastes like [shaving cream]." - Senior Aravino Mani as he tears up and swallows last month's "Dan & Dan"

"[Dan & Dan are] the Castor and Pollux of Lexington High School." - Classics professor Michael Fiveash

"Don't...touch...reggae. You mess with reggae... you mess with me." - Senior Ronen Michaeli cautioning Dan & Dan after last month's "DAM"

We leave you with something to make you say "hmmmmmm." The following observation is from the pages of the Lexington *Minuteman* :

"To the School Committee and the administration at the high school I would like to ask, [are Dan & Dan] promoting responsible behavior? Is this accurate, informative journalism? Also, who approved the inclusion of this in the school newspaper?

I am deeply disappointed to find this kind of material in our high school's newspaper. Most of the students have not only read this, but are being led to believe this kind of crude and casual attitude toward sex is acceptable."
- Lexington middle-school parent Patricia Yeo

If you would like to fight the power, put a note in the *Musket* box in the SAC.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE IF DAN&DAN OFFENDS YOU

History teacher Jeffrey Glew poses with Beverly Nelson and Doris Hancock, two American teachers who also took part in the exchange to Japan, and Hajime Noguchi, their translator.

Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Glew

Teacher Visits Japan

by Annelise Sorensen

Lexington High School history teacher Jeffrey Glew had the rare opportunity to visit Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun," this past year. He was selected to participate in an exchange program after a process of interviews with the Japanese Associates of Greater Boston, the Japanese Consulate, and Lexington resident Dr. Akira Sekino.

The purpose of the trip was to observe the culture of the Japanese people and assess the educational development in Japanese schools. In a letter to the Japanese Association of Greater Boston, Mr. Glew wrote, "I have never experienced such gentle, unobtrusive guidance [as I have seen in Japan]."

During his stay in Tokyo, Mr. Glew had the opportunity to examine first-hand the highly regarded Japanese schools. Upon visiting classrooms, he had expected to see an extremely strict atmosphere. However, he admitted "Each classroom had its own personal style." He continued, to add "There is a lot of warmth, concern, and caring from the teachers."

Although the Japanese students have a six-day school week with classes from eight-thirty to three-thirty in the afternoon, they are given ten minutes of passing time between classes, and two-thirds of each Saturday is reserved for extra-curricular activities.

Each evening approximately three hours are spent on assigned homework, similar to the amount required of the typical American student. Surprisingly, figures from a recent census show that only thirty-six percent of students in Japan continued their pursuit of higher education to a college or university.

On the average, male students' attendance was seven percent greater than that of female students. The census concluded that the percentage split has held consistently between seven percent and ten percent since the early 1970's.

> "I have never experienced such gentle, unobtrusive guidance [as I have in Japan]."
>
> *—History teacher Jeffrey Glew*

Glew observed that the main force of discipline in Japanese students comes from the parents. If the school administrators note a problem with any pupil, the parents are immediately notified. Glew states that the Japanese society is a "hierarchical society and people appear to be fairly clear about behavior expectations."

As for the education itself, Glew relates "many students are tutored primarily to prepare them to pass the college entrance exam." By their own admission, some Japanese schools say that once a student is accepted at a college, "it's a piece of cake."

AWSOM Seeks Equality

by Victoria Chen

Gender equity and sexual discrimination are important and controversial topics in today's society. Seniors Shana Seldin and Linda Warren founded the Association for Women in Science or Math (AWSOM) in the spring of 1992 for the purpose of encouraging female students at LHS to take higher level math and science courses.

Linda explains the idea of behind AWSOM: "In BC Calculus, Shana and I are the only girls in a class of sixteen students. Analytical Physics has just four girls out of twenty-eight students. These ratios didn't seem right."

Shana had been actively involved with a group named AWSOM, which had similar purposes, at her former high school in New Jersey. "It was a very effective group. After the course sign-ups last spring, Linda and I realized the need for such an organization at LHS. It seemed that there was not a great deal of encouragement for female students to take BC Calculus or Analytical Physics."

She continues, saying, "We know girls have the ability to succeed in challenging math and science classes; we want to encourage them to take high-level courses and stay with it for four years. Too many girls drop down to a lower level over the years, especially in math.

"When you look at the honors Geometry classes, you see a significant number of girls in that class. However, after a few years, by the time you get to BC Calculus, there are only two girls in the class. AWSOM is designed to help change this pattern," finishes Shana.

Linda emphasizes, "We're not just trying to get girls into all honors classes, as some people mistakenly believe. We just want them to be confident in their abilities."

"AWSOM has been a victim of misconceptions from the very beginning," reveals Shana. "Many people don't understand what we are or what our purpose is. When we put up posters advertising our first meeting, someone wrote 'Sexist Pigs' on them."

She states emphatically, "We are not a male-bashing organization. We are not anti-male. We are trying to address a problem that exists at LHS." Both Shana and Linda encourage male students to join AWSOM. "We are an association 'for,' and not 'of,'" says Warren.

Recently, AWSOM hosted a guest speaker, Carolyn Whyte, a recent graduate of LHS and now a chemical engineering major at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Linda was "pleased with the presentation, which included a video about engineering." However, says Shana, "We had a small turnout due to the short notice and bad weather."

Whyte was a self-confessed "English and history person" while attending LHS. However, when she proceeded to college and decided to pursue a science major, she had a lot of catching up to do in terms of math and science classes. Consequently, Warren is concerned that "girls not exclude themselves from science and math careers; minds can be changed very quickly."

The next project for the two founders of AWSOM is a trip to Clarke and Diamond middle schools during the week of March 1, 1993. "We are going to talk to the eighth grade girls because they are making their course selections for high school, and we want to tell them about the higher level classes," explains Linda.

"Mr. Doughty from Clarke was enthusiastic," adds Linda. "He has seen that very early on, female students are discouraged from higher level math and science classes."

Shana elaborates, commenting, "Since the eighth graders made course selections on March 8th, they are our immediate concern. However, later we would like to focus on the sixth and seventh graders also. Discouragement, whether conscious or not, happens very early in education."

"We are interested in action," concludes Shana. "We want to emphasize to female students that they do have the ability; they should not feel intimidated. A little encouragement can really help."

Dial "J" for Murder

by Jillian Singer

Last June, the newly elected 1992-93 Lexington High School Drama Club Board decided that this year was going to be different for the Drama Club. Seniors Sylvia Sellers, Tanya Frank, Michelle Concieson, Taryn Roeder and Jillian Singer believed that the LHS Drama Club should be more social, accessible and inclusive than it has been in the previous years. "Any student interested in any aspect of theater should be able to feel comfortable being involved in the Drama Club," they decreed. The new board believed that with sponsoring social events throughout the year, the club would be more social and less performance oriented. Born of this new philosophy, the Drama Club held its first costume ball on the evening of January 29 in J-cafeteria.

Although the ball was organized and sponsored by the Drama Club, all high school students and faculty members were welcome to attend. The theme of the ball was the "Orient Express" of the late 1940's. This theme gave the officers a jumping-off point from which they created a decoration scheme, character personalities, and a central plot around a mystery.

After determining the personality traits of approximately fifty characters, their relationships with one another, and their attire, the Drama Club began to publicize the event and sell tickets. "In spite of posters around the school, homeroom announcements, electronic messages and homeroom mail, it was hard to get tickets sold!" confesses board member Taryn Roeder. Fortunately, during the last week before the ball, the officers were able to assign and distribute characters to the forty or so students who had bought tickets. By requesting all who attended the ball to buy tickets in advance, the officers ensured all ball-attendees sufficient time to create costumes and to think about their characters.

On the big night, the officers, along with faculty chaperones and disc jockey senior Eric Lee, were ready to receive their guests. The dim cafeteria was transformed into the "Orient Express." As one attendee described it, "The cafeteria had chairs that were set up to resemble train compartments. Facing the compartments was a dining cab, sort of like a restaurant section of the train. It was really neat."

After the participants arrived, dressed in their late 1940's costumes, they searched for and found the other characters to whom whey had been assigned relationships. Roeder said, "All the guests had incredible costumes...They were really 'in' to the characters. Lots of them even made up their own, mini-mysteries."

That evening between half past eight and nine o'clock, Tanya Frank, playing a senile, crippled German lady named Frieda Gruber, gave a bottle of "poisonous" nail polish to the cosmetology teacher (senior Katy Gardner) and directed her to give the bottle to the French nurse, Emilie Certon (played by Sylvia Sellers). Simultaneously, it was communicated to the "doctor" (junior Rebecca Lupardo) that there was a book detailing the discovery of poisonous nail polish. At approximately 9:15 that night, the first public event of the mystery occurred. As Sellers downed the lights, Frank disappeared from the wheelchair in which she had been riding. After the lights were turned on again, all of the characters saw the empty wheelchair and assumed that Frieda Gruber had been thrown from the train and killed. This conclusion was exactly what the drama club officers had intended them to believe.

The characters returned to dancing and socializing until a piercing scream was heard a half hour later. In a situation pre-prepared by the club officers, a character found Emilie Certon dead. At this point, senior Taryn Roeder organized the characters into one place to aid them in solving the clues to the murder. As Gardner and Lupardo revealed their evidence, it became clear the Gruber had killed Certon and then feigned her own death. Michelle Conceison, playing a French ally of Certon's, produced an antidote for the poison in the nail polish on Certon's nails. The first words out of the revived Certon's mouth were, "The film...the film..."

After this revelation, the officers had intended to fetch the film from Certon's purse and reveal to the passengers that the film contained incriminating evidence. However, Lupardo and junior Mark Stevens had accidentally thrown a "monkey-wrench" into the otherwise well constructed plan. Earlier in the evening, they had found Certon's purse and had given it to chaperone Mrs. Patricia Maier for safe-keeping. When Lupardo and Stevens requested that Mrs. Maier return the purse, she denied that she had it.

> "People were unexpectedly energetic about their characters and the role they played in the evening's drama. Although it was somewhat hectic, I think it was full of surprises for everyone."
>
> *—Senior Sylvia Sellers*

This led to a momentary crisis as the club officers and Mr. Steve Bogart held an emergency conference to decide what was to be done. It was decided that Concieson would relate to the guests that the film had been thrown into a sewer along the train's routs; it was irretrievable. Concieson went on to explain that the film contained photographs of Germany's secret weapon: the perfect man. The film had been the only evidence to the outside world which documented his existence. Gruber had attempted to murder Certon in order to stop this information from spreading to France and beyond.

Once the mystery was solved, the guests at the ball dropped character and spent some time socializing as themselves. In retrospect, Sellers commented, "People were unexpectedly energetic about their characters and the role they played in the evening's drama. Although it was somewhat hectic, I think it was full of surprises for everyone." Roeder added, "We're going to have to evaluate [the costume ball] so we can help next year's drama club board to make the ball even more successful. But all in all, it was chaotic and fun."

Concerned senior Sylvia Sellers leans over dramatic Tanya Frank during the Drama Club's "Orient Express" costume ball.

Photo by Gill Grant

Senior track-star Eric Losick and junior Fred Simon compete in the 1000-yard run.
Photo from Musket file

Track Boys De-throne "Unbeatable" Rockets

by Josh McCarthy

Second to none! The Lexington High School boys' indoor track team (9-0) dethroned twelve-year Middlesex League Champion Reading by a score of 47-39 in a hotly-contested battle on February 2. The Minutemen then went on to clinch their first Middlesex League title since the '70s with a resounding 66-20 win over the Red Devils of Burlington. The victory, which came on the heels of easy conquests over Stoneham and Melrose, assured a portion of the Middlesex League title for the Minutemen, which they can outright win with a victory over 1-7 Burlington. Against Reading, the Minutemen, ranked #6 in Eastern Massachusetts by the Boston Globe, improved their record to a perfect 8-0. In defeating the #8 Rockets, Lexington snapped Readings' incredible winning streak at 107. Despite a slow start, Lexington posted a remarkable seven first places against the incumbent. During the important middle portion of the meet, the Minutemen posted six firsts in a row.

Coach Arthur Reed was filled with praise for the victors. "It was a tremendous performance by nearly all of our runners. The kids will remember this one for a long, long time."

Reading opened the meet with a victory in the two mile. Rocket Mike Tremberth (10:07.0) outdueled junior Lowell Ladd (10:16.0) and senior Jason Handwerker (10:36.7) as Reading jumped to a 5-4 lead. Ladd, unbeaten at the time of the dual-meet, led for the first twenty laps of the race, but was overtaken and outkicked on the last two laps.

Lexington neutralized Reading's advantage in the shot put, as senior Scott Martin turned in the first clutch performance of the evening. After two throws, Martin was in third place. On his last throw however, Martin let fly an immense heave of 47'3" to place first by a mere two inches. The toss beat his personal best by nearly two feet. At this point, the score was tied at nine apiece.

Unfortunately for Lexington, Reading placed first and second in the 1000 yard run. Junior Fred Simon placed a close third in 2:27.5, while senior Eric Losick, who ran despite an injury, placed fourth with a 2:28.8. The placing dampened the spirits of many Minutemen because it was hoped that Lexington could take both first and third.

Trailing by seven, 17-10, the 600 yard figured to be a "make-or-break" event for the Minutemen. The race featured junior Eric Jansen and freshman phenomenon Andrew Richards. Jansen, also running with an injury, established a commanding lead during the early stages of the race, and fended off a strong finish by Rocket Christian Hilliard to place first in 1:21.1. Richards shocked both the Reading athletes and spectators as he sped to third place in 1:22.5.

Lexington still trailed by four, 20-16, entering the 300 yard run. Junior star Greg Landel bettered his league-best time of 34.5 with a 34.3 blue-ribbon finish, while fellow junior Sean Fitzpatrick secured the critical third-place point with a 35.5. Junior Simon Edwards, a specialist in the event, broke his foot the week before the meet and was unable to compete.

Now Reading's lead was down to one point, 23-22, and the Minutemen were again right in the thick of things entering the mile. Senior Josh McCarthy, returning from a week-long debate tournament, was pitted against Rockets Mark Charbonneau and Justin Ficken. McCarthy led for the first nine laps of the eleven-lap race until Charbonneau overtook him in the tenth. However, McCarthy battled back to take first in 4:21.1. The meet was tied at 27-27.

> "It was a tremendous performance by nearly all of our runners. The kids will remember this one for a long, long time."
>
> —Coach Arthur Reed

Meanwhile, Lexington high jumpers, sophomore Mark Reynolds and junior Johann Jack, felt the pressure as the meet became closer and closer. While Jack was eliminated from the competition at a height of 5'8", it was nevertheless good enough for third place. Reynolds however, would not be denied as he soared to first place with an outstanding leap of 6'2", beating his personal best by an equally outstanding four inches. Lexington had gained the lead, 33-30, with three events remaining: the 45-yard hurdles, 45-yard dash, and the 4x400 yard relay. Since Reading was expected to win the relay, Lexington need eleven points in the other two events to clinch the meet.

In the hurdles, seniors Jimmy Sheehy and Josh Gillis maintained their cool despite the intense pressure, racing to first and second places in 6.1 and 6.2 respectively. As a result of conflicting reports, it was initially thought that Gillis had taken third, but when the results were posted, Gillis apparently had outleaned his opposition. In doing so, Gillis posted three huge points for the Minutemen. The Lexington crowd went ecstatic; with 41 points, all that was needed was a second place finish in the 45-yard dash to clinch the victory. With defending state-champion Jack in the event, a first seemed like money in the bag.

As the sprinters adjusted in their starting blocks, the idle Minutemen could taste the victory. The gun sounded, and Jack raced to first place, easily outdistancing his closest competitor, Rocket Bill Tucker. Jack's time of 5.0 seconds tied former Minuteman Eric Crichlow's field house record, set back in 1989. Senior Scott Arch's third place in 5.3, milliseconds behind Tucker, was the icing on the cake. The Minutemen clinched the victory with 47 points to Reading's 34.

Despite having no bearing on the outcome of the meet, the relay was an exciting race, featuring a Lexington combination of Richards, Jack, Fitzpatrick, and Landel. Richards opened with a 58 second quarter mile, slightly behind Reading's runner. Jack made up nearly all the distance in his leg, as he blazed to a 54.9. Fitzpatrick followed with a 55.3 leg. Although Landel's anchor time of 53.4 was the quickest of the four, it was not quite fast enough to capture first place, as Reading came out on top, 3:41.9 to 3:43.6. Undoubtedly, the four Minutemen had the post-meet celebration on their minds as they cruised to a close second place finish.

"When a team dominates the events like we did tonight, it's hard not to come out on top," commented Reed prior to being showered by Sheehy and Gillis with a water-filled Gatorade bucket. "Reynolds, Jansen, Martin, and Landel, to name a few, all came through in the clutch. I'm really proud of all of them."

Boy Swimmers End Improved

by John Chang

The LHS Boys' Swim Team placed fourth at the league meet held at Bentley College on Friday, February 5. Though they placed fourth, the meet went well for the boys' swim team. Nearly everyone swam a personal best. Melrose was the one to beat throughout the season, with a formidable team that outswam every other team in the league. Lexington finished behind Belmont and Reading, and beat Winchester and Burlington. The boys' swim team finished its 1992-93 season with a very respectable 5-2 record.

This season has been especially tough for the swim team due to the fact that half the team is comprised of new members. However, everyone has worked hard at the practices and the team has steadily improved. To date, the team has been beaten only twice in league meets. Leading the team with strong swimming and support are co-captains senior Chris Tullman and junior Brain Smith. Tullman swims the 100-yard backstroke and various freestyle events. Smith swims the 100-yard breaststroke as well as various freestyle events. Everyone on the team has supported each other, swimming their hardest at each meet.

Thanks to the great coaching of Coach John Henriques and assistant coach Dana, the LHS boys' swim team was able to compete at the highest level possible.

Wrestlers Pinned

by Graham Taylor

Though the 1992-93 Lexington Varsity Wrestling team finished its season with a 5-14-1 dual meet record, the team has made many great strides.

At a home tri-meet in February, Lexington had a field day, easily sweeping the visiting teams, Ashland and Concord-Carlisle. Since then, Lexington has crushed Keefe Tech and come within points of defeating league powerhouse Burlington. In the match against Burlington, Lexington's high point came when the middle weight wrestlers had four pins in a row. Junior Jared Ruquist started it off with an exciting third period pin at 125 pounds. Following Jared, juniors Eric Goulston, Kaom Te, and Graham Taylor delivered three additional quick pins to earn the team 18 points. Sophomores Ron Abrons and Dustin Ward fought older opponents, each being just beaten out in the last period. Burlington had the edge on Lexington by having more mat experience. Despite the uphill battle of the Minutemen, the team still fought hard. After senior Peter Marino won at 189 pounds, Lexington was within points of winning the meet. In the end however, Lexington lost the match.

Coach Kevin Russo believes that the team has the potential to "be the best team Lexington wrestling has ever had." From the start of the season, the team has been viewed as a young team. However, other Middlesex League teams have been rudely awakened by Lexington's re-born program. The team is showing a greater depth than in previous years, with freshmen wrestlers showing up older, far more experienced wrestlers.

Senior swimmer Jire Baran dives ahead during a recent meet.
Photo by Dow Chi

Basketball Girls Finish Up Strong

by Jason Chang

With a decisive 56-22 road win over the Red Raiders of Watertown on February 16, the Lexington girls' basketball team finished its season with an overall record of 16-4, 15-3 in Middlesex League play. The Maids' finished the season second in the Middlesex League. Though they have lost starting forward Megan Irvine, who moved to Alaska, and senior forward Kelly Harrington, sidelined with a knee injury, the team nonetheless must continue on.

On February 2, the Maids crushed a listless Reading Rockette team by a score of 61-33. From the start, the Maids appeared to be in control preventing the Rockettes from taking a shot until 2 1/2 minutes had gone by in the game. However, the missed shot did little to slow the Lexington juggernaut.

With 12:10 remaining in the half, the Maids finally gave up a basket to Reading. Scoring the first five Lexington points, junior Chris Yasaitis had a monster first half, scoring 17 points. She would finish with a game high 21 points, 11 rebounds, and two blocks. Also helping out were senior guard Karen Tracey, scoring 13 points, and junior guard Deanna Mellican, scoring 10 points.

A tough Minutemaid press and equally tough one-on-one defense prevented any Reading Rockette from reaching double figures in scoring. Lexington was able to out-rebound Reading by an overwhelming margin of 35-14.

While four of the five starters reached double-figures in scoring, the Maids were also able to get some help from the bench. Contributing to the routing were senior Michelle Conceison and juniors Kim Driscoll, Meredith Freeman, Lisa Goodwin, Claire Galloway, and Jane Hutton.

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Senior runner Jessica Williams runs to another finish in a recent race.

Photo from **Musket** *file*

Minutemaids Run Away With Top Middlesex Spot

by Susan Gorman

In the battle of the unbeaten teams in the Middlesex League between Lexington and Reading, the Lexington Minutemaids emerged victorious. The girls' indoor track team finished its impressive year with an undefeated 9-0 while Reading fell to 8-1.

Reading's runners, last year's Middlesex League Champions, were anticipated with anxiety coming into the meet in Lexington's field house on Tuesday, February 2. Junior Arpi Terzian, a two mile runner, said ,"We knew that they had won last year's Middlesex League Championship and most of their runners hadn't graduated so they were experienced, and we have a lot of freshmen. But, our times were close to theirs." Senior Becky Dennison said ," We were scared because some of our people were injured." Junior Cara Attanucci and senior Chloe Hill were both injured, but injury did not stop them from competing.

Going into the meet, Terzian said that,"Everyone was psyched. We wanted to do the best we could. There was energy there." This energy showed in the excellent running of Lexington's team. The final score was a close 46-40 win, the deciding points coming down to the final race, the mile relay.

In the two mile race, Reading's Allison Robert garnered first place, but Lexington grabbed both second and third with strong runs by freshman Christine Mancuso and Terzian respectively. Mancuso's time was 12:25.2 while Terzian's was 13:10.3.

The high jump competition ended with some unexpected results. Lexington's Suzanne Rommelfanger, a sophomore, jumped to first place with a height of 4'10". Lexington's Vera Veldkamp, a freshman, finished third clearing 4'8". This event was important in giving Lexington six key points.

In the shot put, the Minutemaids had only one member place in the top three. Despite that, the girls broke their own existing Middlesex League record to land in first. Senior Carrie Granger threw for a distance of 32'6.5". "It was supposed to be a close competition between me and [Lauren Murphy of Reading]. My second throw was the one that won, but I guess it psyched her out," explained Granger.

In the 1000 yard event, Cara Attanucci, despite an injury, raced to a second place finish with a time of 2:59.7. Lexington also finished second in the 600 yard race. Sophomore Caroline Kasparian finished that race with a time of 1:36.0.

In the 300-yard race, Lexington was more successful. The team placed first and third. Becky Dennison finished the race with a time of 40.2 seconds. Freshman Gen Bartels finished in 43.7.

Senior Chloe Hill, whose birthday happened to fall on the date of the Reading meet, won the mile race with a time of 5:42.1. Freshman Michelle Guinane won second place for Lexington in the 45 yard hurdles with a time of 7.4 seconds.

In the Dash, senior Lora Marzilli placed first, finishing in 5.9 second, while freshman Lisa Rycroft finished third in 6.3 seconds.

All these events gave Lexington a one point edge over Reading, with a score of 41-40. The five points awarded for winning relay race would decide the winner. The relay team of Marzilli, Hill, Kasparian, and Dennison completed the mile in 4:15.9 ruining Reading's hopes for a perfect season. For the first three legs of the race, Reading held a slight edge, but Lexington's anchor Becky Dennison ultimately overtook Reading's Shannon Rea and won the race. Dennison said,"I came from behind, but I wasn't that far behind. I wasn't as far behind as usual because everyone ran really well. For the first time we had Lora Marzilli and Caroline ran her best time. It was scary because [Rea] was this really fast girl but [Coach] Dulong told me what to do; catch up to her, stay behind and then go." Cara Attanucci added, " The meet came down to the relay and the team came through. Everyone in the relay race ran really well. Every single point we needed, we got. Without every person running as well as they did, it wouldn't have been a victory."

Becky Dennison also had some recognition on her own this season. She competed in an invitational meet for adults. There was a single competition for high school students consisting of a one mile race. Six girls form around the state competed and Dennison beat them all with a time of 5:09.

In talking about how she felt about this year's girls' team, Granger said," At the beginning , we seemed really young; there were a lot of underclassmen. We weren't sure of what we could do, but now we have proven that we are the best in the league."

Boys' Hockey Battles League

by Mike Diluna

The Lexington High School varsity hockey team (5-11-2) has shown that the old adage "anything can happen on a given night" holds true. At the start of the season, critics had expected little of this young team. Hard work, team play, and strong goal tending have proven these critics wrong. The only thing that seems to hinder the team is inconsistency.

Recently, the Minutemen went to the O'Brien arena to play the highly touted Woburn Tanners, ranked #6 in the state by the Boston Globe. Woburn has been one of the top teams in eastern Massachusetts for many years now, and they came on strong as Lexington's defense had trouble handling their strong positional play. Four quick goals were scored off of Lexington goalie Rob Tavilla. Two of Woburn's six total goals could be considered "flukes." One went off the skate of a player and another was shot from behind the net. In the tradition of Lexington hockey, the team never gave up. With tenacious defense and unrelenting offense, Lexington was able to keep the deficit to three goals, losing by a score of 6-3.

Despite being in the perennially tough Middlesex League, Lexington does have a bright spot this year. The highly talented first line of seniors Brendan Taggart and Tetsu Inada and freshman Tommy Leyne continued to do the bulk of the scoring with a total of 8 points shared among the three in the Woburn game. With a step up in productiveness from the entire team as a whole, the possibility of doing major damage in the Middlesex League still exists.

Lexington could not rest as they were forced to regather their thoughts against another top team coming into town. The Wakefield Warriors had beaten Lexington 11-3 on their first meeting but their next game was much different. Brendan Taggart netted two goals to give a 2-1 lead that was soon converted into a 3-2 score in favor of Wakefield. Once again Lexington's first line pulled through as Taggart scored another goal for the trick and the tie midway through the third period. With only a few minutes left, it looked as if Lexington might pull off a win as shifty Tetsu Inada had a break away which ended in a heart wrenching shot off of the post.

The following Wednesday, Lexington went once again to the O'Brien rink to face the formidable foe in Winchester. Taggart once again broke the ice with a goal half-way through the first period. Winchester quickly tied it up in the second, but that would be as close as they would get. Lexington went on a scoring spree as juniors Doug Scott and John Hatfield, freshman Dan Milne, and senior Dave Podgorski got goals for the 6-3 win. This win exhibited the Minutemen's potential for challenging the upper echelon of the Middlesex League with the entire team producing offense. Hopefully, the Minutemen will bring this potential to its fullest for the remainder of the season.

Junior John Wells covers an opponent. The boys' basketball team had a record of 16-2.

Photo by Brad DeCecco

Senior hoopster Karen Tracey prepares to pass. The team finished with a record of 16-4.

Photo from **Musket** *file*

Boys' Basketball #1 Again

by Sam Handlin and Kit Connolly

It's been another great year for the Lexington varsity boys' basketball team, as they have once again finished at the top of the Middlesex League with co-ownership of the their third straight Middlesex League title. Finishing the season on Tuesday, February 16, the boys' basketball team compiled a record of 16-2, earning themselves a #1 ranking in the Boston Globe's assessment of Eastern Massachusetts teams.

Led by senior Rashad Wilson (21 ppg.), the Minutemen finished in a tie with Belmont at the top of the Middlesex League. The rest of the starting lineup consists of senior guard Kevin Nolen, junior center Sean Groer, junior forward John Wells, and sophomore forward Brek Kohler. Making valuable contributions off the bench are senior forward Darren MacDonald, junior forward Matt Santasuosso, and junior guard Carl Easton. Since Christmas vacation, the Minutemen have been playing great basketball, especially in a thrilling 69-64 home win over Belmont that vaulted them to the top of the Middlesex League standings.

Almost three thousand people packed the Lexington gym to watch the game between Belmont, then ranked #2, and Lexington, then ranked #3. Led by Wilson, Lexington roared out to a seven point lead after the first five minutes. With pressure defense, Lexington was able to maintain its advantage over Belmont throughout the first half. Six minutes into the second half, Belmont took its first lead since the opening minutes, 48-47. Lexington then came back to take a four point lead with just four minutes remaining in the game. At this point, Wilson began to dominate the game on offense, scoring Lexington's next seven points. With forty seconds remaining, Wilson had built Lexington's lead to six points. The game seemed to be over until a Belmont player canned a three point basket twenty seconds later, cutting the Lexington lead to three. On Lexington's next possession, Kevin Nolen was fouled by a Belmont player, sending him to the line. Calmly draining both foul shouts, Nolen put Belmont into a five point hole from which they could not recover. As the final whistle sounded, the Lexington fans poured onto the court to celebrate and congratulate the team and Coach Farias.

After the big game, Lexington suffered an 84-72 setback at the hands of the Woburn Tanners. Since then, the team has recorded convincing victories over Wakefield (69-50), Winchester (82-72), and Watertown (75-57). The win against Watertown gave Coach Farias his 300th victory as the varsity coach at LHS.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of March 1, 1993

Team	W-L-T
Indoor Track	
Boys'	9-0
Girls'	9-0
Boys' Swimming	5-2
Wrestling	5-14-1
Basketball	
Boys'	16-2
Girls'	16-4
Ice-Hockey	5-11-2